

REMARKS

In Amendment A filed on September 16, 2004, Applicants addressed each of the Examiner's pending rejections in the Office Action of May 17, 2004. That Amendment is incorporated herein by reference.

In the PTO communication of December 2, 2004, the Examiner states that in Amendment A, there is no mention as to the subject matter of the newly added claims and/or how the newly added subject matter overcomes the art of record.

Claims 22-26

Applicants added new Claims 22-26 in Amendment A. Applicants intended independent Claim 22 to be similar to independent Claim 7 but to include the step of "forming the synthesized laser beam into a linear shape in order to irradiate a semiconductor film." However, when drafting the claim, the step of reflecting the synthesized laser beam by at least one mirror was inadvertently omitted. Applicants have now added the omitted step. Hence, similar to Claim 7, at least one mirror is used to reflect a laser beam after synthesizing a plurality of laser beams to control direction of the plurality of laser beams. Claim 22 then recites the step of forming the synthesized laser beam into a linear shape after the step of reflecting by the mirror.

Applicants submit that Okumura fails to teach "reflecting the synthesized laser beam by at least one mirror" and then "forming the synthesized laser beam into a linear shape." Hence, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the method of Claims 22-26, and these claims are patentable thereover.

Claims 27-31

Applicants also added new Claims 27-31 in Amendment A. These claims are directed to the method by which the structure of Fig. 16 of the present application functions. As a result, these claims disclose the further steps of “dividing the synthesized laser beam into a plurality of laser beams, changing an optical path length of at least one laser beam of the plurality of laser beams, and synthesizing the plurality of laser beams to irradiate a semiconductor film,” after the steps of “changing an optical path length of at least one laser beam of a plurality of laser beams, and synthesizing the plurality of laser beams”.

Okumura fails to teach the steps of this method. Hence, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the method of Claims 27-31, and these claims are patentable thereover

Information Disclosure Statement

Since the filing of Amendment A, Applicants filed an information disclosure statement (IDS) on October 4, 2004 (which was received by the PTO on October 12, 2004). It is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to any further action being issued on this application.

Conclusion


It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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